

Claims:

1. A drip chamber in a cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) drainage system comprising:  
a rigid tube, the tube having an outer surface; and,  
a vent in fluid communication with the tube, the vent having a filter made of expanded  
5 polytetrafluoroethylene (e-PTFE), wherein the pore size of the filter ranges from greater than  
.45  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 5.0  $\mu\text{m}$ , the filter being flush with the outer surface of the tube.
2. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the pore size of the filter is about 3  $\mu\text{m}$ .
- 10 3. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the vent has a surface area ranging from about  
0.8  $\text{cm}^2$  to about 5.0  $\text{cm}^2$ .
4. A drip chamber in a cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) drainage system comprising:  
a tube having an outer surface; and,  
15 a vent in fluid communication with the tube, the vent having a filter made of a hydrophobic  
porous material wherein the pore size of the filter ranges from greater than .45  $\mu\text{m}$  to about  
5.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .
5. The drip chamber of claim 4 wherein the porous material is expanded  
20 polytetrafluoroethylene (e-PTFE).
6. The drip chamber of claim 4 wherein the porous material is a hydrophobic material.